

WORK-RELATED ASTHMA PREVENTION: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. What is this study about?

In order to prevent individuals from developing work-related asthma, the Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP) program hopes to learn more about what workplace conditions contribute to the development of asthma. This can be done by monitoring cases of work-related asthma in order to answer the following questions:

- **WHO** gets work-related asthma? Are workers in certain occupations more likely to develop asthma? Do other factors like age or smoking status increase a workers risk?
- **WHAT** substances in the workplace can cause or worsen asthma symptoms?
- **WHERE** is work-related asthma occurring? Which industries have the highest rates of asthma?
- **WHEN** are workers getting asthma? Do some workers have preexisting asthma that is worsened by workplace exposures? Do some workers who have never had asthma develop asthma from conditions at work?
- **WHY** do workers develop asthma? Are new exposures being introduced into the workplace? Did the worker's asthma develop after an accident, leak, or spill?

Only when these questions are answered can we begin to prevent additional workers from becoming ill.

2. How did you get my name?

Under Washington law, health care providers are required to report any known or suspected case of work-related asthma. The SHARP Program collects these reports, as well as cases reported through the workers' compensation system.

3. Will my information be kept private?

All information obtained from these reports is kept strictly confidential and will not be revealed to anyone. All information will be used for the sole purpose of preventing other workers from developing asthma, and will not affect the status of any legal case or workers' compensation claim.

4. Other Questions?

If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact the SHARP Program at our toll free number, 1-888-667-4277. You can also learn more about SHARP's work-related asthma prevention program by accessing our website at:
www.Lni.wa.gov/sharp/reportable/asthma.htm.